Transport for NSW

Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrade, Narrabri to Moree

Newell Highway Upgrade

April 2025

Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA

NSW GOVERNMENT

Traffic switch onto a new section of the Newell Highway north of Narrabri

The Australian and NSW Governments are investing $261.17 million in the Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrades between Narrabri and Moree to improve safety and travel reliability for all motorists.

In this update

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- Working with local landowners during harvest
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Project reaches major milestone

The project has reached a major milestone with two of the four priority sections now complete and open to traffic at Bellata and south of Moree. This includes three new overtaking lanes (two northbound and one southbound). In Bellata, the installation of pedestrian refuge islands will be completed later in the year.

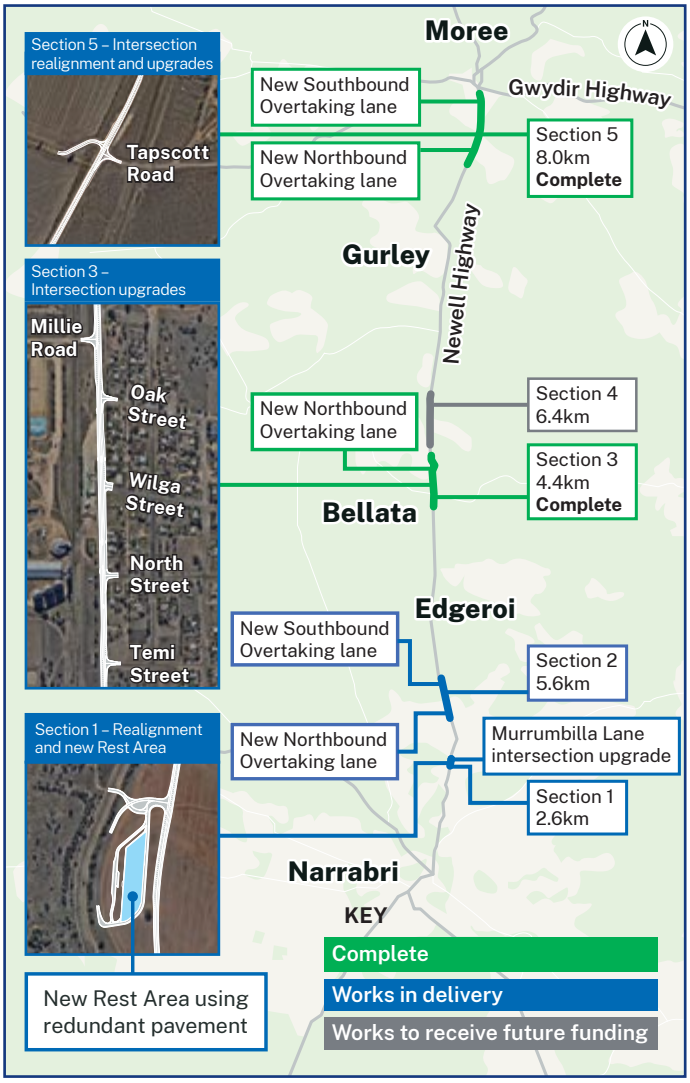
Transport for NSW (Transport) acknowledges the impact the construction has had on communities, particularly the Bellata township, and we appreciate their patience while these important works have been carried out.

As the crews embark on the final leg of the journey, it is exciting to see the project now really starting to take shape.

A map over the page shows what we have now completed and what is remaining as part of this project.

Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

Construction progress (Map)



Next steps

Work is progressing on the remaining two sections south of Edgeroi and north of Narrabri.

In Section 2, near Edgeroi, traffic has now switched over to a new section of the Highway, south of the township. This section is expected to be completed and open to traffic in coming weeks, weather permitting, and includes two new overtaking lanes and various intersection upgrades.

In Section 1, works are also progressing on the new formal rest area which is located 12 kilometres north of Narrabri and vegetation planting will be carried out following construction.

Planting will include hundreds of native trees in the vicinity of the rest area and old Highway, which will contribute to providing shade for motorists during rest stops.

The construction of a new culvert at Murrumbilla Lane north of Narrabri is also taking shape which will significantly improve drainage at this intersection in the future.

The project is on track to be completed in early 2026.

New southbound overtaking lane south of Moree

Construction of a new culvert at Murrumbilla Lane north of Narrabri

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Working with local landowners during harvest

Harvest season in the north-west has seen a significant increase in produce and Transport acknowledges the additional challenges that construction can have on farming communities. During the season we have worked closely with landowners along the construction corridor to minimise impacts where possible. Variable Message Signs (VMS) were also installed across the state including in the north-west to remind people to drive safely and be aware of wide vehicles.

With the cotton season now also well underway, motorists are reminded to be aware that there are still larger vehicles around and to share the road and follow the directions of signage and traffic control.

Wide load header and pilot using a pull over bay on the Newell Highway south of Moree

Interesting facts

To date the project:

300 cubic metres
of concrete poured to build drainage structures

2,508 tonnes
of structural concrete removed

625 tonnes
of steel reinforcement used for roadworks

installed equivalent of
2.8 kilometres
worth of culvert units (drainage)

Improving sustainability

As part of the project's commitment to sustainability, the team has forged a close relationship with Challenge Industries in Narrabri, donating funds generated from recycling initiatives and visiting the site to meet staff.

At the completion of the two sections south of Moree and at Bellata, the project donated office equipment, including IT devices and furniture, as well as the yellow bins from both sites to Challenge Industries so they can store chicken feed for their chick breeding business, providing chicks to local residents and farmers.

The business employs more than 40 local people with disabilities to manage recycling of materials at their Narrabri processing plant.

> "The donation of this equipment by the project comes in very handy and is very appreciated. If we can't use it here at the site, we can pass on to people in need."
>
> Narrabri Manager, Challenge Industries John Pattison.

Project staff meet with staff from Challenge Recycling in Narrabri, as part of the focus on sustainability

Kerb and guttering work in Bellata

Working together as a team

During construction, the project team has faced many challenges, including wet weather events, extreme heat, and the additional challenges in relation to crews living away from home.

To help address these challenges, the team has prioritised wellbeing initiatives such as 'Walking for Wellbeing' encouraging the team to regularly check in on one another.

> "Initiatives such as this are so important to keep us all going. A long project such as this can be really challenging but there is a real sense of achievement amongst the team – we know what we are building will make a massive difference to the local community, freight and tourism once it is completed."
>
> Transport for NSW Project Manager Justin Moore

Transport and Fulton Hogan project staff walking for wellbeing in September 2024

Collaborating with our communities

Thanks to some community advocates in the Bellata township, Transport became aware of palm trees at Sugar's Park that had been planted by the late Richmond Raymond "Sugar" Roberts. Recognising the importance of these trees to the Roberts family and the wider community, the project team worked tirelessly to find an alternative solution for installing the street lighting to avoid impacting the trees.

Streetlights have now been installed and the trees remain untouched. This outcome is a great example of the importance that Transport places on collaborating and engaging with our local communities to find positive solutions.

Fulton Hogan stakeholder manager Brendan Barrett with Bellata community members, Sandi Cullen and Jo Dufty at Sugar's Park

Contact us

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